

**Board Policy: Anti-Bullying**

The State Board of Education believes that Nebraska schools should provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. It is the goal of the State Board of Education, through this policy, to create such positive learning and teaching environments.

For purposes of this policy, the State Board defines positive behaviors as those, which evoke non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance, toward all students and staff in the learning and teaching environment.

The State Board of Education encourages local school districts to establish policies and strategies to emphasize and recognize positive behaviors that promote a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff. Local school policies should assist school personnel in identifying bullying, intimidation, and harassment; and provide a framework for an appropriate response that reinforces and encourages positive conduct.

The Department of Education will disseminate information in regard to model strategies and practices for assisting the implementation of local policies. The department will also disseminate programs that promote state level efforts to assist schools in achieving positive behavior environments, including anti-bullying programs. This assistance may include, but is not limited to, help with student, teacher, and administrator in-service, and pre-service courses.

The Department of Education will design a plan and process for evaluating the effects of this policy.